UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/76/Add.1
27 September 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 97 (a)

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 3 to 13 September 1996. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the General Assembly, annexed to the present note, the report on that session.

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ANNEX

Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on its ninth session

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I. INTRODUCTION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The ninth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 3 to 13 September 1996. The session was convened in accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa". At its ninth session, the Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers of the Committee

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 September, the Committee was informed that Ms. A. K. Ahuja (India), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and Mr. Nikita F. Glazovsky (Russian Federation), Rapporteur of the Committee, were unable to continue their functions on the Bureau. The Committee thereupon elected Mr. Alok Jain (India) as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Anatoli M. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan) as Rapporteur by acclamation. The Committee then elected by acclamation Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia) as Vice-Chairman of Working Group II to replace Mr. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan).

3. The Bureau of the Committee, as elected at its sixth, eighth and ninth sessions, is as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. René Valéry Mongbe (Benin)
Mr. Alok Jain (India)
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. Anatoli M. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

Working Group I

Chairman: Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mohammad Reza H. K. Jabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Erwin Ortíz-Gandarillas (Bolivia)
Mr. Franklin C. Moore (United States of America)

Working Group II

Chairman: Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)
Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its 1st meeting, on 3 September, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties.

3. Special action:

   (a) Urgent action for Africa;

   (b) Action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds.

6. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the tenth session.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its ninth session.

C. Attendance

5. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezeula, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. Palestine was also represented.

7. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and United Nations Environment Programme.

8. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank, World Meteorological Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and Global Environment Facility.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Asia-Africa Legal Consultative Committee, Commission of the European Communities, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of African Unity, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Sahara and Sahel Observatory and Southern African Development Community.

10. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Action sur la lutte contre la désertification au Sahel, Actions pour le développement rural intégré, Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan, Association pour la protection de la nature, Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Benin 21, Both Ends, Centre africain d'assistance de protection de l'environnement au Sahel, Christian Service Committee of the Churches in Malawi, Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora, Comité de coordination des actions des organisations non-gouvernementales au Mali, Confédération des ONG d'environnement de l'Afrique centrale, Coopérative d'agriculture et d'élevage de reboisement de Bareina, DARNA, Desert Research Foundation of Namibia, Environnement Liaison Centre International, Environnement et développement du tiers-monde, Environmental Policy and Society, Environmental Monitoring Group, Environmentalist Society, Esquel Group Foundation, European Environmental Bureau, Felege Guihon International, Fundación del Sur, Friends World Committee for Consultation - Quakers, Guamina, Guinée-Ecologie, International Synergy Institute, Instituto de Prehistoria Antropologia e Ecologia, Friends of the Earth, Natural Heritage Institute, Naurzum - Non-governmental Ecological Organization, Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team, Espoir, Private voluntary organizations/NGOs/natural resource management services (World Learning Inc.), Projektstelle Umwelt und Entwicklung, Sahel Défis, Society for Conservation and Protection of the Environment, Solidarité Canada Sahel, Stockholm Environment Institute, Tema - The Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats, Uganda Women Tree Planting Movement, Wilderness Society, Youth for Action, Zambia Alliance of Women and Zero-Zimbabwe.

D. Documentation

11. The documents before the Committee at its ninth session are listed in appendix I to the present report.

E. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 6 September, the Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document A/AC.241/9/Add.12 (see appendix II, decision 9/1).

13. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 6 and 11 September, statements were made by the representative of the United States of America.

III. PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

14. At the 6th meeting, on 13 September, the Committee considered the question of preparation for the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 2). The item was also allocated to Working Groups I and II for in-depth consideration.

A. Decisions considered without reference to a working group

15. At the 6th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee introduced four draft decisions which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.31

16. The Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/L.31) entitled "Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location" (see appendix II, decision 9/2).

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.32

17. Following a statement by the representative of the Netherlands, the Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/L.32) entitled "Venue of the first session of the Conference of the Parties" (see appendix II, decision 9/3).

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.33

18. The Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/L.33) entitled "Maintenance of the interim arrangements to support the Convention beyond the first Conference of the Parties", as orally revised by the Chairman (see appendix II, decision 9/4).

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.34

19. The Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/L.34) entitled "Organization of the future work of the Committee" (see appendix II, decision 9/5).

B. Recommendations of Working Group I

20. Also at the 6th meeting, the Chairman of Working Group I, Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania), reported on the outcome of the deliberations in that Working Group and introduced three draft decisions which were recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.

Identification of an organization to house the global mechanism

21. Following statements by the Netherlands, France, Mexico, the Russian Federation and the Chairman of Working Group I, the Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Identification of an organization to house the global mechanism", as orally revised during the discussion (see appendix II, decision 9/6).

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements

22. The Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements" (see appendix II, decision 9/7).

Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

23. The Committee adopted a draft decision entitled "Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat" (see appendix II, decision 9/8).

C. Recommendations of Working Group II

24. Also at the 6th meeting, the Chairman of Working Group II, Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan), reported on the outcome of the deliberations in that Working Group and introduced five draft decisions which were recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.1

25. The Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.1) entitled "Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation" (see appendix II, decision 9/9).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.2

26. Following a statement by the representative of Spain, the Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.2) entitled "Organization of scientific and technological cooperation" (see appendix II, decision 9/10).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.3

27. The Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.3) entitled "Draft recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology" (see appendix II, decision 9/11).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.4

28. The Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.4) entitled "Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention" (see appendix II, decision 9/12).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.5

29. Following a statement by the representative of Spain, the Committee adopted a draft decision (A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.5) entitled "Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties" (see appendix II, decision 9/13).

IV. SPECIAL ACTION

30. The Committee held a discussion on the question of special action: urgent action for Africa (item 3 (a)) and action taken in other regions (agenda item 3 (b)) at its 3rd to 5th meetings, on 11 and 12 September 1996.

31. A paper reflecting the conclusions of the Chairman on the consideration of the item is contained in appendix III to the present report.

V. STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

32. The Committee considered the question of the status of signature and ratification of the Convention (agenda item 4) at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 3 and 6 September 1996.

33. The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that 45 countries had ratified or acceded to the Convention. The following countries deposited their instruments of ratification or accession during or just before the ninth session of the Committee: Benin (29 August 1996), Norway (30 August 1996), Mongolia (3 September 1996), Central African Republic (5 September 1996), Gabon (accession 6 September 1996) and Botswana (11 September 1996). The Executive Secretary stressed the satisfaction of the Secretariat with the actual pace of ratifications and accessions that would enable the first Conference of the Parties to be held in 1997. In his concluding remarks, he made an appeal to those countries that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, in order to be able to participate in the first Conference of the Parties as parties to the Convention. Finally, he thanked the Government of Italy for its generous offer to host the first Conference of Parties and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for its offer to provide services and facilities for the Conference.

VI. REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

34. The Committee considered the question of the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (agenda item 5) at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 6 and 13 September 1996.

35. In addressing the Committee, the Executive Secretary introduced the note by the Secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (A/AC.241/59 and Add.1) which presented, respectively, the status of resources from both the regular budget and extrabudgetary sources and the list of countries that participated in the ninth session of the Committee through funding from the Special Voluntary Fund. In his statement, the Executive Secretary also informed the Committee on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat and projects to be carried out before the end of the year in areas such as national awareness seminars, the subregional and regional consultation processes and the public information programme of the Convention.

36. The representative of Greece, speaking on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, expressed satisfaction with the quality and clarity of the document prepared by the Secretariat and requested it to include a work programme in its future documentation under the item. He also requested clarification regarding the level of resources allocated to consultancies under the regular budget as well as on the nature of grants reported under the Trust Fund.

37. In his concluding remarks, the Executive Secretary thanked the countries that contributed to the funds of the Committee for their generosity, stressing the importance of their support, and confirmed that future documentation under the item would include a description of the work programme of the Secretariat on an annual basis.

VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION

38. At the 6th meeting, on 13 September, the Committee approved a draft provisional agenda for its tenth session (see appendix IV).

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS NINTH SESSION

39. At the 6th meeting, on 13 September, the Committee adopted its draft report as contained in document A/AC.241/L.30 and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it by incorporating in it the proceedings of the meetings held and decisions taken at the final meetings of the session.

APPENDIX I

List of documents before the Committee at its ninth session

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/9/Add.12	1	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation by the Committee
A/AC.241/45/Rev.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat
A/AC.241/48/Rev.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/49/Rev.1*	2	Note by the Secretariat on the procedures for communication of information and review of implementation
A/AC.241/53 and Corr.1	1	Provisional agenda for the ninth session
A/AC.241/54	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/54/Add.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Canada
A/AC.241/54/Add.2	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Germany
A/AC.241/54/Add.3	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location - Offer of the Government of Spain
A/AC.241/55	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements

* Reissued for technical reasons.

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/55/Add.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Development Programme
A/AC.241/55/Add.2	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the United Nations Environment Programme
A/AC.241/55/Add.3	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements - Offer of the World Meteorological Organization
A/AC.241/56	2	Note by the Secretariat on the identification of an organization to house the Global Mechanism
A/AC.241/57	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of scientific and technical cooperation
A/AC.241/58	2	Note by the Secretariat reporting on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention
A/AC.241/59 and Add.1	5	Note by the Secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/60	3	Letter dated 14 February 1996 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Committee
A/AC.241/61	3	Note verbale dated 9 September 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat
A/AC.241/L.30	7	Draft report of the Committee on its ninth session
A/AC.241/L.31	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functions: physical location"

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/L.32	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Venue of the first session of the Conference of the Parties"
A/AC.241/L.33	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Maintenance of the interim arrangements to support the Convention beyond the first Conference of the Parties"
A/AC.241/L.34	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Organization of the future work of the Committee"
A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.1	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation"
A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.2	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Organization of scientific and technological cooperation"
A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.3	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Draft recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology"
A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.4	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention"
A/AC.241/WG.II(IX)/L.5	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties"

APPENDIX II

Decisions adopted by the Committee at its ninth session

Decision 9/1

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decides to approve the accreditation of the following non-governmental organizations:

Action pour la lutte contre la désertification au Sahel (ALUDES)

Afrique environnementale (AE), Centre africain de protection environnementale

Agriculture and Environmental Development Foundation

Amicale des Forestières du Burkina Faso (AMI.FO.B)

Association des femmes africaines pour la recherche et le développement (AFARD-CAMEROUN)

Association peuples culture développement (ACPCD)

Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan (APNEK)

Association pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de L'enfant (ASMENE)

Bina Swada - Community Self-reliance Development Agency

Contribution au développement rural (CDE)

DARNA

Desert Research Foundation of Namibia

Energies-eau-environnement pour le développement (D-3E)

Entreprenariat développement environnement nutrition (EDEN)

Espoir

Fédération des associations du Fouta pour le développement (FAD)

Felege Guihon International

Fondation centrafricaine pour la sauvegarde des ressources naturelles (FOCSARENA)

Fundación para el Desarrollo en Justicia y Paz (FUNDAPAZ)

Groupe de recherches et d'applications techniques (GRAT)

Hope for Women

Islamic Relief Association (ISRA)

Les Amis de la Terre - Benin

Naurzum - Non-governmental Ecological Organization

Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)

People In Action

Project Earth Action - Congo

Saviya Development Foundation

Vent-soleil-environnement et developpement (VESEDI)

Vernot Environment

Women for Sustainable Development

Decision 9/2

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Noting with gratitude the offers of the Governments of Canada, Germany and Spain, contained in documents A/AC.241/55/Add.1, A/AC.241/55/Add.2 and A/AC.241/55/Add.3, to host the permanent secretariat at Montreal, Bonn and Murcia, respectively,

1. Requests the Chairman of the Committee to establish a contact group, which will have appropriate participation by the Governments of Canada, Germany and Spain, to clarify these offers as necessary and to discuss appropriate procedures enabling the first session of the Conference of the Parties to take a decision on this matter;

2. Requests the Secretariat to present, in consultation with the three Governments concerned, for consideration at the tenth session of the Committee, a document comparing the major elements of the three offers;

3. Decides to consider this item further in plenary meetings at its tenth session on the basis of the deliberations of the contact group established in accordance with paragraph 1 above and the document requested in paragraph 2 above.

Decision 9/3

Venue of the first session of the Conference of the Parties

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 12 December 1985,

Noting with appreciation and satisfaction the invitation of the Government of Italy to host the first session of the Conference of the Parties in Rome,

Noting also the offer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of services and facilities for the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

1. Decides to accept the invitation of the Government of Italy and the offer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

2. Decides also that the venue of the first session of the Conference of the Parties shall be Rome, and that the dates will be determined at a later stage.

Decision 9/4

Maintenance of the interim arrangements to support the Convention beyond the first Conference of the Parties

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly that it maintain the arrangements within the current programme budget for the interim secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to support the Convention until 31 December 1998 and to maintain the extrabudgetary funds;

2. Recommends also, in the same context, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997-1998 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene;

3. Requests the General Assembly to consider supporting the Convention and its interim secretariat in the calendar year 1998, including appropriate conference-servicing costs, within the funding levels contained in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Decision 9/5

Organization of the future work of the Committee

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995,

Taking into account the need for efficient preparation of the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting that the first session of the Conference will be held not earlier than September 1997,

1. Decides that the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should aim at finalizing all outstanding negotiating issues and that the negotiations of the two working groups should be concluded at that session;

2. Further decides that the programme of work of the tenth session of the Committee be structured in such a way that there will be sufficient time for group consultations at the very beginning of the session;

3. Authorizes the Chairman of the Committee to organize such consultations in the period after the tenth session of the Committee as he deems necessary for the appropriate preparation of the first Conference of the Parties.

Decision 9/6

Identification of an organization to house the global mechanism

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, decides to transmit the text in annex I to this decision on the functions of the global mechanism and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it to the Committee at its tenth session for further consideration, particularly its section A, paragraph 4.

Annex I

[FUNCTIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING AN INSTITUTION TO HOUSE IT

A. Functions of the global mechanism

In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, a global mechanism is established to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular articles 7, 20 and 21, and the financial provisions of relevant regional implementation annexes, the global mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties, including on policies, operational modalities and activities, and be accountable and make regular reports to it, according to the principles of transparency, neutrality and universality. The global mechanism, in carrying out its mandate under article 21, paragraph 4, should perform the following functions:

1. Collecting and disseminating information

(a) Identify potential sources of financing from bilateral donors, the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional and

subregional financial mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations, foundations and other private sector entities, and establish relationships and maintain contacts with them.

(b) Establish and update an inventory of the financial needs of affected developing country Parties for carrying out action programmes, as well as other relevant activities related to the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of information provided under relevant articles of the Convention.

(c) Identify and draw up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes and available financial resources in the form of a comprehensive database, incorporating information both from Parties and from various financial mechanisms, comprising:

(i) Sources of available financing through bilateral and multilateral agencies, including their funding patterns and eligibility criteria, using reports to the Conference of the Parties by Parties and all other available data;

(ii) Sources of financing from non-governmental organizations, foundations, academic institutions and other private sector entities that might be encouraged to provide funding, including their funding patterns and eligibility criteria;

(iii) National funding in affected country Parties to finance actions designed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought.

(d) Disseminate information collected in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) to Parties on a regular basis and make it available, on request, to interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Analysing and advising on request

(a) Promote the matching of available resources to the projects and programmes of affected developing countries related to combating desertification, including assisting them to find new and additional resources for the implementation of the Convention.

(b) Analyse and provide advice on sources of financial assistance and on mechanisms to channel resources to the local, national and subregional levels, including through non-governmental organizations and private sector entities.

(c) Provide advice on the establishment, financing and management of national desertification funds.

(d) Identify, promote and provide advice about innovative methods and incentives for mobilizing and channelling resources.

3. Promoting actions leading to cooperation and coordination

(a) Disseminate information it collects so as to facilitate the assessment of, and exchange of information on, the effectiveness of financial assistance, including its accessibility, predictability, flexibility, quality and local-level orientation.

(b) Provide identified United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and multilateral financial institutions, with information and stimulate coordination among them, including in multiple-source financing.

(c) Encourage, and facilitate coordination through the provision of information and other measures concerning relevant multiple-source financing approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, such as co-financing, parallel financing, consortia and joint programmes.

(d) Increase awareness of the Convention, and promote the participation in its implementation, of identified foundations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other private sector entities and facilitate contacts with them by interested Parties, in order to contribute to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources.

(e) Provide information, making use of the Conference of the Parties and other relevant existing forums, that will:

(i) Facilitate discussion of relevant issues in the governing bodies of multilateral financial institutions;

(ii) Inform Parties about the eligibility criteria and projects of international financial instruments and mechanisms, including particularly the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as they relate to implementation of the Convention;

(iii) Inform affected country Parties about each other's relevant activities;

(iv) Disseminate methodologies developed by Parties to identify and prioritize the financial needs of action programmes at all levels;

(v) Promote full use and continued improvement of the funding sources to be utilized for the implementation of the Convention referred to in relevant articles of the Convention.

(f) Identify and then provide information and advice on financing sources for the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought.

(g) Promote partnership building as it relates to the support of the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Convention at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

(h) Facilitate the financing of information exchange on best practices utilized in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought at the local level in affected developing country Parties.

[4. Mobilizing and channelling financial resources to all levels

(a) Mobilize adequate and substantial financial resources, including new and additional resources, on a grant or, if necessary, concessional basis, to fund activities under action programmes of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, at all levels in conformity with the Convention and with the particular conditions of the regions of relevant regional implementation annexes.

(b) Channel these resources, including its own resources, in a predictable and timely fashion to national, subregional and regional levels through trust funds and other mechanisms.

(c) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing financial mechanisms and collaborate with them to facilitate and catalyse the mobilization and channelling by them of adequate and substantial financial resources, including new and additional resources, for implementation of the Convention.

(d) Promote and facilitate, through the actions in paragraphs (a) to (c):

(i) The transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries;

(ii) The use of indigenous knowledge and technologies, as well as local expertise, at all levels in affected developing countries.]

OR

[4. Promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of financial resources to all levels

(a) Facilitate the mobilization of substantial financial resources, including new and additional resources, as provided for in article 20, paragraph 2 (b), on a grant or, if necessary, concessional basis, to fund activities under action programmes of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, at all levels in conformity with the Convention and with the particular conditions of the regions of relevant regional implementation annexes.

(b) Facilitate the channelling of these resources in a predictable and timely fashion to national, subregional and regional levels through national desertification funds and other mechanisms.

(c) Promote and facilitate, through the actions in paragraphs (a) and (b):

(i) The transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries;

(ii) The use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and technologies, as well as local expertise, at all levels in affected developing countries.]

OR

[4. Mobilization and channelling of financial resources

(a) Promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of financial resources to all levels in accordance with the provisions of the Convention by:

(i) Ensuring that adequate financial resources are available for programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;

(ii) Mobilizing substantial financial resources, including grants and concessional loans, in order to support the implementation of programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;

(iii) Mobilizing adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility of the agreed incremental costs of those activities concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Instrument establishing the Global Environment Facility;

(iv) Channelling these resources, including other resources made available through its activities, in a predictable and timely fashion to national, subregional and regional levels through trust funds and other mechanisms.

(b) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing financial mechanisms and collaborate with them to facilitate and catalyse the mobilization and channelling by them of adequate and substantial financial resources, including new and additional resources, for implementation of the Convention.

(c) Promote and facilitate, through the actions in paragraphs (a) and (b):

(i) The transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries, in conformity with the Convention;

(ii) The use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and technologies, as well as local expertise, at all levels in affected developing countries.]

5. Reporting to the Conference of the Parties

(a) Provide reports to the sessions of the Conference of the Parties on its activities, including in those reports the following:

(i) The operations and activities of the global mechanism, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above to affected developing country Parties;

(ii) The assessment of future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as assessment and proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds.

B. Criteria for selecting an institution to house the global mechanism

1. Functional capacity

(a) Relevance of the mandate, general objectives and activities of the institution to the overall objective of the global mechanism "to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms", and to its mission "to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties".

(b) Capacity of the institution to organize the global mechanism to perform its functions efficiently in order to assist the Conference of the Parties, as well as individual Parties and groups of Parties, particularly those in Africa, to meet Convention obligations regarding financing.

(c) Modalities by which the institution would perform the functions of the global mechanism, including necessary arrangements with other entities.

(d) Context which the institution offers for establishing effective relationships with other relevant entities, including its experience with, and knowledge of, operations of national, bilateral, regional and multilateral financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and other private-sector entities.

(e) Knowledge of the institution regarding desertification and drought issues in all regions, and its experience working with government, local communities, non-governmental organizations and other entities in affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa, in dryland management, local-area development and other relevant fields.

(f) Experience and capacity of the institution in supporting research activities and in facilitating the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies.

(g) Experience and capacity of the institution to assist affected developing countries Parties in dealing with poverty eradication and development issues, in conformity with the priority to Africa accorded in article 7 of the Convention.

(h) Exhibition by the institution in practice of the principles of transparency, neutrality and universality in its management and its operations.

2. Relationship to the Conference of the Parties

(a) Status of the global mechanism within the institution, including organizational and administrative arrangements to ensure accountability to the responsiveness of the Conference to Conference guidelines.

(b) Modalities of global mechanism accountability to the Conference and reporting on global mechanism activities.

(c) Procedures for the Conference to enter into agreements with the institution regarding global mechanism functions and modalities, including the nature, form and timing.

3. Administrative and other support

(a) Administrative infrastructure available to support activities of the global mechanism, including location, office space, personnel, financial, communications, information management and field office frameworks.

(b) Modalities of staffing the global mechanism.

(c) Projected costs of operation of the global mechanism, the extent to which the institution would absorb them and the nature of charges to the Conference of the Parties for costs not absorbed, if any.]

Decision 9/7

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

(a) Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization for their offers, contained in

documents A/AC.241/44, A/AC.241/55/Add.1, A/AC.241/55/Add.2 and A/AC.241/55/Add.3 respectively, to provide overall administrative support and/or support services to the permanent secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

(b) Transmits to its tenth session for further consideration document A/AC.241/WG.I(VII)/L.1 submitted by Uganda on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

(c) Invites members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit to the Secretariat by 30 September 1996 any questions they may have concerning the offers of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide overall administrative support to the permanent secretariat.

(d) Requests the Secretariat to transmit these questions to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to compile the questions, along with the answers provided, in a document to be considered at the tenth session of the Committee.

(e) Decides to consider at its tenth session the identification of the institution to which the Conference of the Parties shall institutionally link the permanent secretariat.

Decision 9/8

Draft financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, decides to transmit to its tenth session for further consideration the draft text of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat contained in annex I.

Annex I

FINANCIAL RULES OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt, at its first session, the following decision regarding the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat:

Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (e), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat,

Decides to adopt the financial rules attached to the present decision.

Financial Rules for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

Scope

1. The present rules shall govern the financial administration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat. Insofar as not specifically provided by the present rules, the Financial Regulations and Rules of [the relevant institution] a/ [the United Nations] shall apply.

Financial period

2. The financial period shall be a biennium, of which the first calendar year shall be an even-numbered year.

The budget

3. The head of the permanent secretariat shall prepare the budget estimates for the following biennium in United States dollars showing projected income and expenditures for each year of the biennium concerned. The head of the permanent secretariat shall dispatch the estimates to all Parties to the Convention at

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a/ Here and elsewhere, if this alternative were approved, the name of the relevant institution and the title of its head would be inserted once the institution is selected.

least ninety days before the opening of the session of the Conference of the Parties at which the budget is to be adopted.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall, prior to the commencement of the financial period that the budget covers, consider the budget estimates and adopt **by consensus** a core budget authorizing expenditures other than those referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10.

5. Adoption of the core budget by the Conference of the Parties shall constitute authority to the head of the permanent secretariat to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved and up to the amounts so approved, provided always that, unless specifically authorized by the Conference of the Parties, commitments shall be covered by related income.

6. The head of the permanent secretariat may make transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved core budget. The head of the permanent secretariat may also make transfers between such appropriation lines up to limits which the Conference of the Parties may set as appropriate.

Funds

7. A General Fund for the Convention shall be established by [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations] and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a), along with any additional contributions to offset core budget expenditures that are made, pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and 12 (c), by the Government hosting the permanent secretariat and by [the relevant institution] [the United Nations] shall be credited to the General Fund. All core budget expenditures made pursuant to paragraph 5 shall be charged to the General Fund.

8. Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible.

9. A Supplementary Fund shall be established by [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations] and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. The Supplementary Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c), other than those specified in paragraphs 7 and 10, including contributions earmarked, in accordance with paragraph 15, for:

(a) Support to the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c) and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

10. A Special Fund shall be established by [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations] and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. The Special Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) earmarked to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

11. In the event that the Conference of the Parties decides to terminate a fund established pursuant to the present rules, it shall so advise [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations] at least six months before the date of termination so decided. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, in consultation with [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations], on the distribution of any uncommitted balances after all liquidation expenses have been met.

Contributions

12. The resources of the Conference of the Parties shall comprise:

(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

(b) Other contributions made by Parties in addition to those made pursuant to paragraph (a);

(c) Contributions from States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources;

(d) The uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods attributed to the fund concerned;

(e) Miscellaneous income attributed to the fund concerned.

13. The Conference of the Parties shall, in adopting the indicative scale of contributions referred to in paragraph 12 (a), make adjustments to take account

of contributions of Parties which are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

14. In respect of contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a):

(a) Contributions for each calendar year are expected on or before 1 January of that year;

(b) Each Party shall, as far in advance as possible of the date due for the contribution, inform the head of the permanent secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and of the projected timing of that contribution.

15. Contributions made pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) shall be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Convention, as may be agreed between the head of the permanent secretariat and the contributor. Contributions to the Supplementary Fund referred to in paragraph 9 shall, as appropriate, be placed in sub-accounts.

16. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a) from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Convention after the beginning of a financial period shall be made *pro rata temporis* for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

17. All contributions shall be paid in United States dollars or its equivalent in a convertible currency into a bank account to be designated by [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations], in consultation with the head of the permanent secretariat.

18. The head of the permanent secretariat shall acknowledge promptly all pledges and contributions and shall inform the Parties, once a year, of the status of pledges and payments of contributions.

19. Contributions not immediately required shall be invested at the discretion of [the head of the relevant institution] [the Secretary-General of the United Nations], in consultation with the head of the permanent secretariat. The resulting income shall be credited to the appropriate fund or funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10.

Accounts and audit

20. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of [the relevant institution] [the United Nations].

21. During the second year of the financial period [the relevant institution] [the United Nations] shall provide the Parties with an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period. [The relevant institution] [The United Nations] shall also, as soon as practicable, provide to the Parties a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period.

Administrative support costs

22. The Conference of the Parties, under such terms as may from time to time be mutually agreed upon between it and [the relevant institution] [the United Nations], shall reimburse [the relevant institution] [the United Nations] from the funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10, as the case may be for the purposes of services rendered, including the administration of the relevant fund by [the relevant institution] [the United Nations], to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat.

[Decision procedures

23. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraphs [1,] 4, [6,] [8,] and 12 (a) shall be adopted [by consensus] [by consensus whenever possible, and in the absence of consensus, as a last resort, by a two-thirds majority of the Parties present and voting at the session].]

Amendments

24. Any amendment to the present rules shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties by consensus.

Decision 9/9

Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Procedures for communication of information and review of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 of the Convention, which provides that each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties at its ordinary sessions, through the permanent secretariat, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention and that the Conference of the Parties shall determine the timetable for submission and the format of such reports,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation of the Convention and the functioning of its institutional arrangements in the light of the experience gained at the national, subregional,

regional and international levels and on the basis of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge,

Recalling further article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties, and determine the form and timetable for transmitting the information to be submitted pursuant to article 26, review the reports and make recommendations on them,

Conscious of the desirability of adopting procedures to organize and streamline the communication of information,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on this issue,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

PROCEDURES FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION AND REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction

1. The purpose of the present procedures is to organize and streamline the communication of information pursuant to article 26 of the Convention in order to facilitate the regular review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 22, paragraph 2 (a) of the Convention, and to promote and facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties pursuant to article 22, paragraph 2 (b) of the Convention.

2. Specific objectives of the procedures include the following:

(a) To ensure the effective assessment of progress towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and to enable the Conference of the Parties to make appropriate recommendations to further those objectives;

(b) To exchange information and data among Parties in order to maximize the benefits of successful measures and initiatives under the Convention;

(c) To ensure that the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism have access to the information and data necessary to carry out their mandates;

(d) To ensure that information on implementation is in the public domain and available to the international community, particularly intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other interested entities.

General obligation to report

3. Each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its ordinary sessions, through the permanent secretariat,

reports on the measures which it has taken for the implementation of the Convention.

4. Affected country Parties shall provide a description of the strategies established pursuant to article 5 of the Convention and of any relevant information on their implementation.

5. Affected country Parties which implement action programmes pursuant to articles 9 to 15 of the Convention shall provide a detailed description of the programmes and their implementation.

6. In addition to reports on action programmes pursuant to paragraph 5, any group of affected country Parties may make a joint communication, directly or through a competent subregional or regional organization, on measures taken at the subregional and/or regional levels in implementation of the Convention.

7. Developed country Parties shall report on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes, including information on the financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention.

8. Parties are encouraged to make full use of the expertise of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the preparation of reports and in the dissemination of relevant information.

9. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are encouraged to provide information, as appropriate, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention.

Format and content of reports

10. Reports should be as concise as possible to facilitate their review. They should be structured as follows, taking into account the degree of development of action programmes and other relevant circumstances:

(a) Reports on national action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The strategies and priorities established within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies;

(iv) The institutional measures taken to implement the Convention;

(v) The participatory process in support of the preparation and implementation of the action programme;

(vi) The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the national action programme and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities;

(vii) The measures taken or planned within the framework of the national action programmes, including measures to improve the economic environment, to conserve natural resources, to improve institutional organization, to improve knowledge of desertification and to monitor and assess the effects of drought;

(viii) Financial allocations from national budgets in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(ix) A review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(b) Reports on joint, subregional and regional action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The areas of cooperation under the programme and measures taken or planned;

(iv) The consultative process in support of the preparation and implementation of the subregional or regional action programmes and the partnership agreement with developed country Parties and other interested entities;

(v) Financial allocations by affected country Parties of the subregion or region in support of implementation as well as financial assistance and technical cooperation received and needed, identifying and prioritizing requirements;

(vi) A review of the benchmarks and indicators utilized to measure progress and an assessment thereof;

(c) Reports of developed country Parties

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The consultative processes and partnership agreements in which they are involved;

(iv) Measures taken to support the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels, including information on the financial

resources they have provided, or are providing, both bilaterally and multilaterally;

(d) Reports of affected developed country Parties not preparing action programmes

(i) A table of contents;

(ii) A summary not exceeding six pages;

(iii) The strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and any relevant information on their implementation.

11. Information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, should include summaries, in principle not exceeding four pages.

Language of reports

12. Reports shall be communicated to the permanent secretariat in one of the official languages of the Conference of the Parties.

Timetable for the submission of reports

13. The Conference of the Parties shall initiate, at its third session, review of the reports submitted by the Parties, alternating between affected African country Parties and affected country Parties of other regions. At its third session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affected African country Parties. At its fourth session, the Conference of the Parties shall examine the reports of affected country Parties of other regions. Such rotation shall apply to subsequent sessions.

14. Developed country Parties shall report, at each session, on measures taken to assist action programmes of those affected developing country Parties reporting for the session. Relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to do likewise.

15. Reports shall be submitted to the permanent secretariat at least six months prior to the session at which they are to be reviewed.

Compilation and synthesis by the permanent secretariat

16. The permanent secretariat shall compile the summaries of reports submitted pursuant to paragraphs 3 to 7, and of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as other intergovernmental

and non-governmental organizations, on measures taken or planned in support of implementation of the Convention.

17. The permanent secretariat shall prepare, in addition, a synthesis of the reports setting out the trends emerging in the implementation of the Convention.

Review process

18. Reports by Parties, together with advice and information provided by the Committee on Science and Technology and the global mechanism consistent with their respective mandates and such other reports as the Conference of the Parties may call for, shall constitute the basis of the review of implementation by the Conference of the Parties.

Periodic reports

19. After the third ordinary session and following every subsequent ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, the permanent secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing the conclusions of the review process.

Official documents

20. Documents prepared by the permanent secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 16, 17 and 19 shall constitute official documents of the Conference of the Parties.

Availability of reports

21. All reports communicated to the permanent secretariat in accordance with the present procedures, as well as institutional information pursuant to paragraph 22, shall be in the public domain. The permanent secretariat shall make available copies of the reports to any interested Parties and other entities or individuals.

Communication of institutional information to the permanent secretariat

22. To facilitate exchanges of information and informal contacts within and outside the review process, Parties shall communicate to the permanent secretariat, as soon as practicable, information concerning the names, addresses and phone numbers of national, subregional, and regional focal points and coordinating bodies.

23. The permanent secretariat shall keep in databases and/or directories, and regularly update, information provided in accordance with the present procedures.

Assistance to developing country Parties in the preparation of reports

24. The permanent secretariat shall, on request and within the limits of its resources, facilitate assistance to affected developing country Parties, particularly affected African country Parties and least developed Parties among them, in the compilation and communication of information pursuant to the present procedures, or seek such assistance from bilateral donors and/or competent intergovernmental organizations.

Decision 9/10

Organization of scientific and technological cooperation*

Section one

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

I. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall decide, at its first session, on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Recalling also article 22, paragraph (2) (h), of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall, as appropriate, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental,

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* The decision was adopted at the ninth session of the Committee, it being understood that Spain was not a party to the decision, and has a reservation with respect to section I, part II, paragraph 6 (composition of the Bureau) and will return to the discussion of this paragraph.

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Decides to adopt the terms of reference attached to the present decision.

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the Committee on Science and Technology (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties. The role of the Committee is to provide the Conference of the Parties with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought to ensure that its decisions are based on the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.

Functions

2. Consistent with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its articles 16 to 18 and 24, and at the request of the Conference of the Parties, the functions of the Committee include the following.

(a) Advisory functions

(i) Provide scientific and technological information needed to implement the Convention.

(ii) Collect information, analyse, assess and report on the impact of developments in science and technology and give advice on the possible utilization of such developments for the implementation of the Convention.

(iii) Advise the Conference of the Parties on the possible implications of the evolution of scientific and technological knowledge for programmes and activities under the Convention, particularly in connection with the review of implementation pursuant to paragraph 22 (2) (a) of the Convention.

(iv) Advise on possible research priorities for particular regions and subregions, reflecting different local conditions.

(v) Make recommendations on the establishment of ad hoc panels, including issues relating to the terms of reference, composition and modalities of work of the panels.

(vi) Advise on the structure, membership and maintenance of the roster of independent experts bearing in mind the recognition in the Convention of local knowledge and expertise.

(b) Data and information functions

(i) Make recommendations regarding the collection, analysis and exchange of data and information to ensure systematic observation of land degradation in affected areas and assess the processes and effects of drought and desertification.

(ii) Make recommendations on pertinent, quantifiable and verifiable indicators which might be used in connection with action programmes.

(c) Research and review functions

(i) Make recommendations regarding specialized research on the scientific and technological tools necessary to implement the Convention and on evaluation of the results of such research.

(ii) Identify, as appropriate, new scientific and technological approaches with particular reference to the multidisciplinary aspects of combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(iii) Make recommendations for promoting cooperative and comparative research between regions with different cultural and socio-economic circumstances.

(iv) Make recommendations for promoting participative research on relevant traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought through, *inter alia*, the utilization of information and services provided by local populations and other competent bodies, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

(d) Functions related to technology

(i) Make recommendations on ways and means to identify and use technology, knowledge, know-how and practices relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(ii) Make recommendations on ways and means to exchange information regarding technology, knowledge, know-how and practices, including through the network referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4.

(e) Evaluation functions

(i) Monitor the application of science and technology to research projects relating to the implementation of the Convention and report to the Conference of the Parties.

(ii) Examine the scientific and technological relevance and feasibility of research conducted pursuant to action programmes under the Convention.

Networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

3. In accordance with article 25 of the Convention, the Committee shall, under the supervision of the Conference of the Parties, make provision for the undertaking of a survey and evaluation of the relevant existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network to support the implementation of the Convention.

4. On the basis of the results of the survey and evaluation referred to in paragraph 3, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways and means to facilitate and strengthen networking of the units at the local, national and other levels, with a view to ensuring that the thematic needs set out in articles 16 to 19 of the Convention are addressed.

Composition and Bureau

5. The Committee shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties. It shall be composed of government representatives competent in fields of expertise relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

6. The Committee shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of which shall act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chairperson, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they shall constitute the Bureau. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms.

Programme of work and reports

7. The Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties.

8. The Committee shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on its work, including at each of its sessions.

9. The Bureau of the Committee shall be responsible for follow-up of the work of the Committee between sessions and may benefit from the assistance of ad hoc panels established by the Conference of the Parties.

Liaison with the scientific community and cooperation with international organizations

10. The Committee shall serve as a liaison between the Conference of the Parties and the scientific community. In carrying out its functions, it shall, in particular, seek the cooperation of, and utilize the services of and information provided by, competent bodies or agencies, whether national or international, intergovernmental or non-governmental.

11. The Committee shall keep itself informed of the activities of the scientific advisory bodies of other conventions and of relevant international organizations, and shall coordinate its activities and cooperate closely with them to avoid duplication of work and optimize results.

Transparency of work

12. The results of the work of the Committee shall be in the public domain.

Section two

PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A ROSTER OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

I. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Procedures for the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields, based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the establishment of a roster of independent experts,

Decides to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts on the basis of the procedures attached to the present decision.

II. ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A ROSTER OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

Introduction

1. A roster of independent experts is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, particularly its article 24, paragraph 2. Its purpose is to provide the Conference of the Parties with an up-to-date list of independent experts in the various fields of specialization relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, from which members of ad hoc panels may be selected.

Selection of experts to be included on the roster

2. Each Party may nominate experts on the roster, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and broad and equitable geographical representation. Nominees shall have expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

3. Nominations shall be communicated by the Parties to the Secretariat through diplomatic channels. In addition to the names of the experts, the communications shall include a reference to their field(s) of expertise, as well as their addresses.

4. Experts nominated by the Parties shall *ipso facto* be included on the roster.

5. Parties may make new nominations or withdraw previous nominations to the roster at any time by so notifying the permanent secretariat through diplomatic channels.

Disciplines to be represented

6. The roster of experts should reflect the diversity of knowledge and skills needed to provide advice on combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, taking into account the integrated approach of the Convention and the expertise required to implement the provisions of the Convention, notably its articles 16 to 19, including expertise from grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Review by the Conference of the Parties

7. The Conference of the Parties shall review the roster regularly and at least at every other ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and shall formulate recommendations in order for the roster to be consistent with the requirements provided for in paragraph 2 above.

Maintenance of roster

8. The permanent secretariat shall maintain the roster, which shall be in the public domain.

Section three

PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC PANELS

I. RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 24, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which provides that the Conference of the Parties may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought,

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the procedures for the establishment of ad hoc panels,

Decides to adopt the procedures attached to the present decision.

II. PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC PANELS

Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties may, in principle in its ordinary session, and as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the Committee on Science and Technology, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in fields of science and technology relevant to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

Terms of reference and modalities of work

2. The Conference of the Parties shall, in principle in its ordinary session, determine the terms of reference and modalities of work of each ad hoc panel, including its duration.

Composition and number of ad hoc panels

3. Ad hoc panels shall be composed of experts whose names are taken from the roster of independent experts, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance, and broad and equitable geographical representation. They shall have scientific or other relevant backgrounds and field experience.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the composition of each ad hoc panel according to the specific needs of each case and shall designate a coordinator from among members of the panel to conduct the work and prepare the report. The number of members of any ad hoc panel shall not exceed twelve.

5. Every effort shall be made to ensure that the composition of the ad hoc panels reflects local and traditional knowledge and expertise.

6. The Conference of the Parties shall determine the number of ad hoc panels which, in principle, shall not exceed three at any one time.

Reports of ad hoc panels

7. Ad hoc panels shall report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Committee on Science and Technology. The Committee may not amend or revise the reports of ad hoc panels. However, it may comment or make recommendations based upon them.

8. Reports of ad hoc panels shall be in the public domain and, where appropriate, be disseminated through different mechanisms to all interested Parties.

Decision 9/11

Draft recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on the programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

(a) Invites interested members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to contribute comments and views on a proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology, to be received by the interim secretariat by 15 October 1996;

(b) Requests the interim secretariat to prepare and report on a draft proposed programme of work based on such contributions for the Committee on Science and Technology for consideration at the tenth session;

(c) Also requests the interim secretariat to identify bodies of other relevant organizations and conventions performing work similar to that envisaged to be undertaken by the Committee on Science and Technology, and to report to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its tenth session on such work and possible areas of cooperation with such bodies;

(d) Encourages members of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to make nominations for the roster of independent experts in accordance with the qualifications and criteria proposed for adoption at the Conference of the Parties by submitting such nominations through diplomatic channels to the interim secretariat;

(e) Requests the interim secretariat to compile a draft roster of independent experts, based on such contributions, for the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 9/12

Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, taking note with appreciation of the report referred to in document A/AC.241/58, and noting with appreciation the progress accomplished on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention, requests the interim secretariat:

(a) To continue work on benchmarks and indicators (A/AC.241/58) initially undertaken pursuant to decision 8/8, and in that connection to invite written contributions from any interested members of the Committee and competent organizations, to be received by the interim secretariat by 15 October 1996;

(b) In connection with the continuation of work referred to in subparagraph (a), to establish, under its authority, an informal open-ended consultative process to expand on such work with the participation of any interested member of the Committee from any regional and/or subregional groups, and competent organizations, in addition to those members and governmental and non-governmental organizations referred to in the report mentioned in document A/AC.241/58;

(c) To report on the work undertaken in accordance with subparagraphs (a) and (b), with special emphasis on implementation indicators, for the tenth session.

Decision 9/13

Draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, noting with appreciation the progress accomplished on the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties on the basis of document A/AC.241/48/Rev.1, requests the interim secretariat to prepare a revised text for the tenth session reflecting the deliberations in Working Group II during the ninth session.

APPENDIX III

Conclusions by the Chairman on the question of special action

The consideration of the agenda item on the implementation of the resolution on urgent action to be taken on behalf of Africa afforded the Committee an opportunity to hear several statements from affected countries in Africa. We also listened with great interest to the statements made by delegations from other continents.

AFRICA

In their statements the African representatives reported that the continent had now fully embarked upon the preparatory phase of the implementation of the Convention. Of the 45 countries which have already ratified the Convention, 22, or nearly half of them, are African. Several other countries have announced that they will shortly deposit their instruments of ratification.

In addition, the preparation of national action programmes (NAP) shows that, despite numerous constraints, the affected African countries are using a step-by-step approach to put in place mechanisms which will over time constitute the framework of the national action programmes.

For example, many countries have reported initiatives which have been taken in fields as diverse as information activities and awareness-building among different categories of actors; creation of the institutional tools required for the follow-up of proposed activities; and preparation for national forums by, inter alia, organizing the first decentralized consultations, conducting a number of thematic studies and strengthening the consultative processes aimed at the signing of joint venture agreements.

Certain countries have already organized national meetings during which the basic aspects of the methodology to be followed have been discussed. Early drafts of the national action programmes have also been prepared at these meetings.

The subregional organizations have also provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the activities which they have undertaken to implement their subregional action programmes (SRAP). In most cases, priority activities have now been defined and are being implemented, in accordance with the recommendations made at the various subregional meetings that were previously held in cooperation with national, subregional and international partners. Multidisciplinary teams of experts carry out the activities that have been initiated with intergovernmental organizations. Priority is being given to the creation of subregional funding facilities, the organization of training sessions for women and their role in the management of natural resources, and the elaboration of cross-border pilot projects.

All of these national and subregional initiatives have been supported by the interim secretariat of the proposed Convention to Combat Desertification.

As the facilitator, the task of the interim secretariat is to provide support to requesting countries and subregional organizations until the benchmarks provided for in the Convention are fully in place.

In this regard, countries have mentioned that the various approaches made to development partners have not yet had any results. At the same time, the bilateral and multilateral donor agencies have indicated that, for their part, numerous initiatives have been taken to provide financial support for the efforts being made by affected African countries.

We must redouble our efforts to take advantage of all the opportunities offered within the framework of our Convention. For example, innovative ideas, such as that of the "chef de file", should enable us to better fill the gaps in information about potential sources of support. As might be expected, much still remains to be done to mobilize the funds required to support the implementation of the resolution on urgent measures on behalf of Africa.

This should lead us to give further consideration to the intensification of the process of consultations among partners, our respective responsibilities and the various forms of support which all Parties could provide to help the countries concerned overcome the constraints to which they referred during our discussions.

ASIA

In Asia, we have witnessed the launching of a very encouraging number of activities. The debate has illustrated the rich diversity of this region and the severity of the threat posed by desertification. We are optimistic that the process of ratification and accession will be speeded up. Awareness-building seminars have been held with the support of the secretariat and these will continue. Existing programming frameworks are being reviewed to ensure that they are consistent with the Convention's provisions, particularly those concerning the integrated and participatory aspects of the process. Full use should be made of existing institutional and scientific capacities, which will be more focused on the implementation of the Convention. Subregional (Abu Dhabi) and regional (New Delhi) meetings have accelerated the process of identifying cooperation priorities at these various levels. The consultations among Asian NGOs which were begun in Islamabad will continue with the support of the secretariat in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at Bishkek in November 1996 and, at the global level, at Hyderabad in December 1996.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Latin America, a number of countries have indicated that they will shortly ratify or accede to the Convention. They stressed the need for the mobilization of funding in order to support the efforts being made by countries at the national and regional levels to implement the Convention. Focal points have been designated and information networks made available, while closer

cooperation is being developed among the countries concerned in such areas as soil protection and water resources management.

NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

In the northern Mediterranean, the Madrid meeting held in July 1996 gave a decisive impetus to regional cooperation, which will be further consolidated at the next meeting, scheduled to be held in October 1996 in Crete under the auspices of the European Union. The meeting held last May in Istanbul called for closer cooperation among the countries of the Mediterranean, the Balkans and the Caucasus. There again, the start of this important process is a welcome development.

This overview of activities at the global level strengthens our confidence in the potential that is being developed, under the auspices of the Convention, to better ensure sustainable development in the arid regions of the world. It also reminds us that we are only at the beginning of a long journey which will require the commitment and solidarity of all Parties.

Finally, we also need to stress the importance of local action. It is the active participation of the affected populations which will give substance to the Convention and fuel optimism about the role which it can play as an instrument for the promotion of sustainable development.

APPENDIX IV

Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Committee

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties.

3. Special action:

   (a) Urgent action for Africa;

   (b) Action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and northern Mediterranean regions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session.